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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/612,770

07/01/2003

James E. Brewer

A03P1047

4998

36802 7590 12/21/2006
PACESETTER, INC.
15900 VALLEY VIEW COURT
SYLMAR, CA 91392-9221

EXAMINER

GEDEON, BRIAN T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3766

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

12/21/2006

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

<p align="center">Office Action Summary</p>	<p>Application No.</p> <p align="center">10/612,770</p>	<p>Applicant(s)</p> <p align="center">BREWER ET AL.</p>	
	<p>Examiner</p> <p align="center">Brian T. Gedeon</p>	<p>Art Unit</p> <p align="center">3766</p>	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10/16/06.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 11, and 14-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Dahl et al. (US Patent no. 6,976,967).

In regard to the above claims, Dahl et al. disclose an apparatus and method for sensing spatial displacement in the heart. The Examiner considers spatial displacement to be a parameter of cardiac geometry. The medical device 300 according to the invention includes a first lead 302 and a second lead 304, col 4 lines 35-55, which can be mounted in the vasculature in or around the heart as well as in any of the four cardiac chambers. Figures 3 and 4 show the embodiments of the leads in different chambers of the heart. Figure 9 teaches that a signal is measured from a lead disposed in a structure of the heart, and determines a change in dimension of the heart due to the beating based on the detected signal, thereby anticipating the claimed method and devices. Further, Dahl et al. contains a housing 306 that inherently incorporates circuitry operable to supply electrical stimulation pulses to the electrodes on the implantable leads, 302 and 304.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dahl et al. (US Patent no. 6,976,967).

In regard to claims 10-12, Dahl et al. substantially describe the invention as claimed except do not teach calculating a cardiac chamber volume or diameter from the claimed method. Dahl et al. do measure a chamber distance, from which one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made could calculate the related values of volume and diameter.

In regard to claim 13, Dahl et al. substantially describe the invention as claimed except do not teach that the cardiac geometry parameter determined gives an indication of congestive heart failure. However, Dahl et al. do teach that by measuring the changes in the distance of the heart, the function of the heart may be directly monitored, col 3 lines 60-62. The "function of the heart" implies that abnormalities and states of certain conditions, e.g. congestive heart failure, can be monitored from the measurements of displacement. Therefore it would be obvious.

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3. Claims 2, 4, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dahl et al. (US Patent no. 6,976,967) in view of Thacker (US Patent no. 5,024,222).

In regard to claims 2, 4, and 7, Dahl et al. substantially describe the invention as claimed except do not expressly teach the use of ring electrodes of unipolar pacing means. Thacker shows that ring electrodes and unipolar pacing means are well known in the cardiac pacing art. Therefore use of a ring electrode or unipolar pacing means would be obvious since they are well known in the art.

4. Claims 8, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dahl et al. (US Patent no. 6,976,967) in view of Digby (US Patent no. 6,496,730).

In regard to claims 8 and 9, Dahl et al. substantially describe the invention as claimed except do teach sensing or pacing during the refractory period. Digby et al. show that sensing and pacing can occur during a refractory period, col 4 lines 1-10. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to sense and pace during the refractory period in order to artificially extend it.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments, filed 16 October 2006, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-7, 10-12, and 14-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Sloman et al. (US Patent no. 6,738,669) in view of Budd et al. (US Patent 5,662,669) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn.

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However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Dahl et al. (US Patent no. 6,976,967).

6. The indicated allowability of claim 8, 9, and 21 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Dahl et al. (US Patent no. 6,976,967) and Digby (US Patent no. 6,496,730). Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) are above.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian T. Gedeon whose telephone number is (571) 272 3447. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert E. Pezzuto can be reached on (571) 272 6996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Brian T. Gedeon
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3766



Robert E. Pezzuto
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3766

BTG